

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,922

Examiner

Tuyen To

Applicant(s)

BARNEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2825

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
JACK CHIANG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment and remarks/arguments filed on 03/13/2006.
2. The amended drawings (Figs. 1 and 4) have been approved.
3. Claims 1-13 are pending.
4. Applicants' remarks/arguments filed 03/13/2006 are persuasive and obviate the rejections of claims 1-13. Accordingly, **claims 1-13 are allowed.**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
6. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Roger D. Greer** (Reg. No. 26,174) on 04/10/2006.
7. The application has been amended as follows:
8. **Claims 27-29** are canceled.

#### ***In the specification:***

On page 33, before " ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" delete in entirety " AN ACCESS CELL DESIGN AND A METHOD FOR ENABLING AUTOMATIC INSERTION OF ACCESS CELLS INTO AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGN".

(Note: the title should not be included in the abstract)

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On page 33, line 10, after "cell." delete in entirety "A method for inserting access cells into an integrated circuit includes modifying a cell library so that a library description of a standard access cell is temporarily defined as having two terminals, modifying a netlist so that a set of nets listed therein are represented as two different nets, and modifying the netlist to include a set of access cells each of which is defined as being connected, at each terminal, to one of the two different nets. The modified netlist and modified cell library may then be used by a place and route tool to automatically create a layout of the integrated circuit having access cells inserted therein. After the layout has been created, the modified netlist is again modified so that the two virtual nets are once again represented in the netlist as a single net and the layout is modified so that the two virtual nets are represented in the layout as a single net."

(Note: the abstract is amended because it contains more than 150 words).

***In the claim:***

**Claim 2**, line 2, delete " said first, second and third paths" insert -- said first, second current paths and said first leg--.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. **Claims 1-13** contain allowable subject matter.
10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

**Claims 1-13** are allowed *because the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest* an access cell for an integrated circuit having a current pathway

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disposed therein for routing current through said access cell, said current pathway comprising: a first current path disposed lengthwise in said access cell; a second current path disposed lengthwise in said access cell; and a third current path disposed between said first current path and said second current path, said third current path having a set of three legs; a first of said legs being disposed generally parallel to said first and said second current paths; a second of said legs connecting said first current path to said first leg; and, a third of said legs connecting said first leg to said second current path.

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

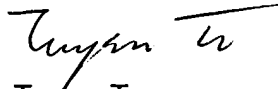
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyen To whose telephone number is (571) 272-8319. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571) 272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

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for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tuyen To

Patent examiner

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JACK CHIANG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER